

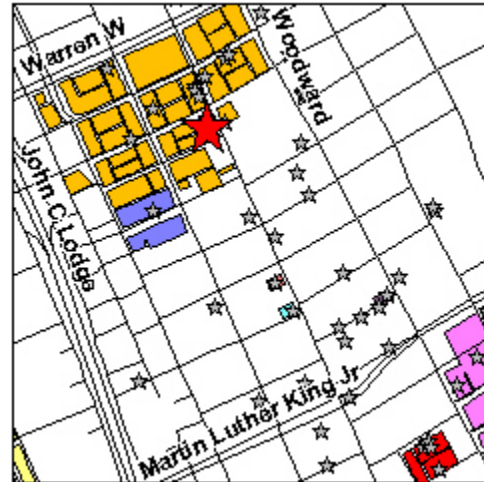
First Unitarian-Universalist Church

4605 Cass

Local ✓ 12/15/80
State
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McAdow House



Historic overview:

The Church of Our Father of the First Universalist Society was established in 1879 at the residence of S. J. Murphy, and its first service was held in Whitney's Opera House. A church was completed in 1881 and sold to Lew Tuller circa 1913 for his addition to the Tuller Hotel. The congregation purchased a house originally owned by the McAdows, for use while their new church was being erected in the garden to the north.

The McAdow house, built in 1892-3, still remains the parish house. The Mr. and Mrs. Perry McAdow built this mansion in Detroit as an entrance into Detroit society. McAdow had made a fortune gold mining in Montana, and his wife managed their business interests. The house and carriage house reportedly cost \$65,000 to build and was featured in an article written in the *Detroit Sunday News Tribune* shortly after it opened.

Donaldson & Meier constructed the new church in 1915 in the neo-Gothic style. The church was dedicated in 1916, and houses unique features such as the Newcomb Memorial Window and the Murphy Memorial Organ. William and Annie Lee Willet of the nationally known Willet studio created the window, which is located in the front gable of the church. The organ was built by Ernest M. Skinner and valued at \$25,000 in 1916. McCollester Hall, named in honor of Rev. Lee S. McCollester, was completed in 1917. It occupies the site of the former carriage house. Connected to both the church and parish house, the hall was originally built as a gymnasium and place for church functions. It was later remodeled to provide more modern classrooms and function rooms.

